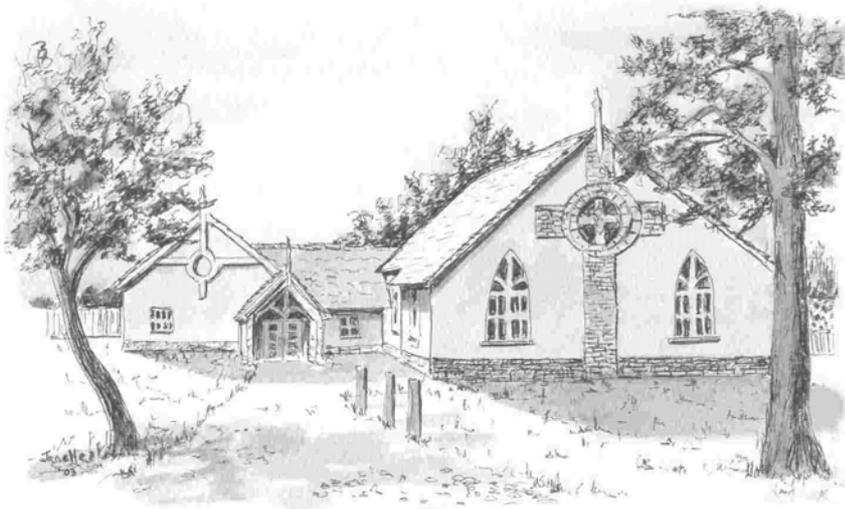


Sonning Parish Magazine



**Serving the Communities
of Sonning and Charvil**



25p

July / August 2006

The Parish of Sonning

The ancient parish of Sonning, originally extending from Sonning Common to Sandhurst was one of the great blocks of land handed over to the Church in the 7th century. In 909 A.D. Sonning with Ramsbury, became a separate bishopric, the Bishop of Ramsbury/ Sonning maintaining a riverside Hall in the village. In 1075 the see was transferred to Old Sarum, ultimately Salisbury, whose bishops had their own Palace on the same site as the Saxon Hall until 1574, when the manor was transferred to the Crown.

St Andrew's Church in the heart of the village was founded in Saxon times - probably by Birinus, first bishop of Dorchester-on-Thames. It was largely rebuilt in 1852, during the incumbency of Canon Hugh Pearson; it was he who founded the Sonning Parish Magazine in 1869.

The White Hart Hotel, now known as The Great House, and partly 17th century, stands on the site of older buildings including the home of 'Elias the Ferryman' mentioned in a deed of 1100. The French Horn Hotel, in Sonning Eye, was built in the 1880s in front of the original old inn - now Bridge House - and its farm buildings. The Bull Inn, belonging to the Church, was originally known as Church House, a guest house for pilgrims to medieval St Sarik's Chapel in St Andrew's. Also adjoining the church is Deanery Garden one of Sir Edwin Lutyen's best-known country houses built at the turn of the century, just above the site of the ancient residence of the Deans of Salisbury who regularly visited Sonning, the parish being a 'Dean's Peculiar'.

Sonning Mill produced a regular supply of flour from Saxon time until 1969, after which it was converted into a 'Dinner Theatre', the first of its kind in Britain. The Pearson Hall is the principal venue for village functions

Within the village boundaries lie the Reading Blue Coat School at Holme Park (once the home of the Lord of the Manor) Sonning Church of England Primary School, King George's Field and other sports grounds, and Reading University Farm - all of which help to preserve the rural atmosphere of Sonning, the centre of which is now a conservation area.

The civil parish of Charvil is of relatively recent origin but the land on which it lies has long been part of the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning. In the 18th and 19th centuries it consisted of Charville Farm and a few cottages, which lay between the villages of Sonning and Twyford and adjacent to the London to Bath highway.

The development of Charvil began between the two World Wars, particularly after the new A4 road was constructed in the 1920s by-passing Twyford, and was accelerated after 1945. To meet the needs of this increasingly large community, St Patrick's dual-purpose Church and Hall was consecrated and opened in 1952; it remains within the ecclesiastical parish of Sonning, It was considerably extended and refurbished in 2001.

St Andrew's Sonning Contacts

Clergy: Vicar	Canon C. G. Clarke, The Vicarage, Thames St, Sonning	969 3298
Associate Vicar	Rev Michael Forrer, 6 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 1989
Licensed Lay Ministers	Mr D. G. Sims, Vine Cottage, Pound Lane, Sonning	969 3151
	Mr R. J. Peters, Elm Gables, Parkway Drive, Sonning	969 3589
Churchwardens:		
	Mr Bob Hine, 28 Glebe Lane, Sonning, RG4 6XH	969 8653
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	Charvil: Mr C M Easton, 8 Park View Drive South, Charvil	934 0795
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Forthcoming Events

<i>Date</i>	<i>What's on?</i>	<i>Page</i>
Every Fri	Baby & Toddler Group, Perason Hall	27
Jul 4	Little Fishes & Toddlers	23
Jul 7	SWMC Live music night with 'Chico'	R
Jul 7	Village Rounders Match, King George's Field	R
Jul 8	STA French wine & cheese tasting, Pearson Hall	R
Jul 9	Charvil Village Fête, Charvil Village Hall	-
Jul 10	CE School; Midsummer Nights Dream	23
Jul 13	Flower Club meeting	25
Jul 14	SWMC Casino Night.	R
Jul 15	Sonning Consevative Association summer drinks	23
Jul 17	Village Rounders match	R
Aug 10	Flower Club summer lunch	25
Sep 9	Village Show	25
Nov 30	Sonning Royal British Legion A.G.M. St Sarik Rm	R

Deadline, September Magazine is 4.00 p.m. Friday, 25th August 2006.

- Notes: 1. There will be no issue of the magazine in August.
2. To check the page occupancy of your contribution:
use *Trebuchet MS* and font size 14. Over 1 page and it is
liable to drastic editing!

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Regular Services

The Parish Church

Sundays	8 am	Holy Communion (Prayer Book)
	10.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Parish Eucharist, second, fourth and fifth Sundays Matins, third Sunday
	6.30 pm	Evensong, except third Sunday of the month, when it will be Holy Communion with the laying on of hands for those who wish it.
Wednesdays	10 am	Holy Communion at St Andrew's

St Patrick's Charvil

Sundays	9.30 am	Family Service, first Sunday of the month Holy Communion, second and fourth Sundays Worship Service other Sundays Sunday School 9.30 am except first Sunday of the month
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If you would like to arrange a Thanksgiving for the birth of a child, a Baptism (please give at least one month's notice of your intention), a Marriage or a Funeral, please contact the Vicar. Please note that the Vicar hopes to take Monday as a day off, although urgent matters will of course be dealt with.

The Vicar's Letter

Holidays

In June Christine and I went away to the Ardennes for ten days. We had often passed through on our way to somewhere else and promised that one day we would stop and explore what looked a lovely area. We chose the area near La Roche and were not disappointed.

Taking our caravan it only took about four and a half hours from Calais and we found a wonderful quiet camping ground just outside the town. It was on the riverbank and surrounded by delightful walks through the tree-covered hills. It was the first June holiday we had taken for more years than we care to remember because it was only last September Christine gave up teaching. Children are great but it is wonderful not to be surrounded by other people's children on holiday!

We were able to relax by the river, read several books and go for lots of walks. Murphy, our dog, gave the impression that he was in doggy heaven. Holidays are really important and I know that many people are not as fortunate as we are in being able to get away.

May had been a busy time despite some thinking I only work one day a week. The Scarecrows were a huge success but required a great deal of hard work from many people. I know you will join me in thanking Malcolm Stansfield and that he would wish me to thank Pam Glasspool and everyone else who worked so hard to make the event so enjoyable. For my part I wish to thank those who gave so many hours of their time decorating the Church (How many sheep had Bo Peep lost?) and those who spent hours, especially Barbara Jones, making cakes and serving teas in the St. Sarik Room.

A few days before the Scarecrow Weekend we heard that the house we worked hard to purchase over many years for our retirement had been affected by a serious fire. It will take something like nine months to put right because other than the walls the house has to be almost rebuilt. Fortunately we were insured but these things still have an effect and we were feeling the need of a few days break.

Many of you will be taking your holiday soon and I hope you will return as refreshed as we did and the weather will be as good as it was for us. It is important to use such time to strengthen relationships with those closest to us. I believe it is also important to use such time to reflect on the events of our lives, our priorities and how we use our time.

We get far more holidays than people a few generations ago. You do not have to go back far to see that the only time of people got from work was on Holy Days, from which the word holiday comes. There were not many Holy Days and they always came as single days so we really are fortunate to have our holidays. I hope that whenever you take yours and wherever you go you will have a good holiday.

Love & prayers

Chris

From the Diary

Baptisms

21st May Milly Ivy Jacobs & Robert James Foley

Weddings

27th May Christopher Joseph Mills to Davinia Joanne Susan Hilton

3rd June Roger Gooding to Fiona Susan Cooke
3rd June Sean Joseph Aldridge to Rachel Yseult Bentley
10th June Ricky James Homewood to Victoria Jane Frampton
10th June Alan Joseph Collins to Michelle Ann Brooks
17th June Daryl Marc Bramley to Lisa Jane Webb

Funerals

31st May Maurice John Thorne (Ashes buried after Cremation)
2nd June Emily Grace Waldie (Stillborn Child) Buried in Churchyard
5th June Richard Cooksey (Reading Crematorium & St. Andrew's Church)
13th June Helen Evelyn May Seamark (Ashes buried after Cremation)
14th June Violet Caroline Hawkes (St. Andrew's Church & Churchyard)
20th June Gladys Violet Mark Hackney (Ashes buried after Cremation)

New Altar Frontal & Chasuble

Thank you to those who have given so many hours of their time making the new green altar frontal and Chasuble. They will be used for the first time in June and have been made to another inspired design by Christine Wild. Several of the altar frontals had began to show their age and we are fortunate that at the time they needed replacing we had so many talented and hard working people around so we could design and make our own.

Parish Administrator

Sonia Boyles started work in May as our Parish Administrator. Initially Sonia will do nine hours a week but we will review this after a few months. It was wonderful to come back from holiday and not find hundreds of emails and so much post behind the Vicarage door that I could not open it!

Amongst other things Sonia will write up the Marriage Registers and be responsible for the weekly notice sheet. If you have items for the Notice Sheet she can be contacted on 969 2428 or by sending emails to the Vicar. In time we hope to set up a separate email address for the Parish, rather than everything coming to the Vicarage, but until we are certain what will work best for us the Vicar's email address at the beginning of the Magazine will be used for messages to him and for the Parish Administrator.

Burial Ground Extension

Mrs Anne Cooksey, of Bishops Close, has very kindly given to the Church part of her field for an extension to the existing burial ground. The land involved runs from the existing Burial Ground behind the St. Sarik Room beside the footpath towards the river and across the field to the width of the existing burial ground.

This is a very generous gift to the Church and the Village and I know you join me in saying how grateful we are. We will have to apply for change of use from agricultural land to burial ground. The land concerned does not fall away towards the river, so the water table should be the same as the present burial ground, and I am confident that permission can be obtained.

The present Burial Ground still has room for burials for some years but this gift will enable us to go on doing so for several generations to come.

Anne, from all of us, a very sincere "Thank you."

Chris.

St. Patrick's Viewpoint

One doesn't expect to get Fever in the summer. Of course I am not talking about the fever that confines you to bed but the sporting variety engendered by the World Cup. As we have a seven year old in the family who is "football mad" it means that the fever is contagious, so we have all got it. No doubt the same has afflicted your family. Fortunately the fever is not fatal or terminal, although sometimes, briefly, one wishes it was! As a small boy I myself was stricken down by the "cricket" strain of the fever. The symptoms of the fever, like a rash of England St George insignia breaking out on all sorts of items in the supermarkets ranging from inflatable armchairs to flashing headgear, made me think it is worse than bubonic plague. The only known cure is if eleven men plus substitutes and their two coaches are knocked out of the World Cup! Once we are cured we can get back to normal, with the senses dulled and numbed, for the time being.

All this set me thinking, will the same fever of enthusiasm be in evidence when Jesus returns in glory in the grand finale of the world? In the meantime wouldn't it be miraculous if the same fever of enthusiasm and energy were to be shown in action by everyone for the world's poor, hungry and diseased sufferers, refugees and asylum seekers, remembering of course that Jesus himself, aged two, was a temporary refugee with his parents in Egypt.

In the meantime why not come and be a supporter at the open-air service at 9.30 am at the Charvil village fete on Sunday July the 9th? Why not bring a flag, a friend and the family for friendship, fun and fellowship? See you there.

Love and blessings,

Michael and Family.

Clive Carwardine-Palmer R.I.P.

Clive was an active member of St Andrews along with Jane before they moved to Highcliffe, Hampshire to retire some four years ago. Unfortunately his retirement was tragically cut short by prostate cancer and he died peacefully in the Macmillan Unit, Christchurch hospital on May 29th.

Clive joined the choir at St Andrews with his son Matthew and daughter Kate in the 1980's but he had to leave when work took him away from Reading. He was a member of the PCC and the Buildings and Maintenance Committee where his technical knowledge and practical expertise was greatly appreciated. During my time as Churchwarden, before he moved to Highcliffe, Clive was of great assistance to me in carrying out various maintenance aspects to the fabric of the church. For many years Clive and Jane were responsible for the cleaning rota. It was on Saturday mornings that you would find them both cleaning in St Andrew's making sure it looked beautiful for weddings and Sunday Services. On moving to Highcliffe they soon became actively involved at Christchurch Priory becoming sides people and fundraisers. Clive was also a member of Probus.

A Thanksgiving Service was held in the Priory on 7th June 2006 attended by family and many friends. Clive was a quiet, unassuming man and a real gentleman. He will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Keith Nichols

The 2006 Scarecrow Weekend.

Thanks to the splendid effort of many people, another highly successful outcome was achieved. The most effective publicity, especially TV coverage, drew in the visitors in their thousands from far and wide. Excluding the income to The Friends of St Andrew's from refreshments in the St Sarik Room, the profit from the two days was over £13,000.

Although the Trail map listed 73 exhibits - as many involved multiple "people", there were in fact over 100 scarecrows on display. The numerous wonderful Nursery Rhymes in Church and the beautiful floral arrangements were special attractions. Voting for the Favourite Exhibit was again a popular activity, with Robert Baldwin's "Pirates of the Caribbean" topping the poll, but with several close behind - including: "Message from a Bottle", "Sonning Zoo", "Narnia", "Eliza Doolittle", "One Man and his Dog" & "Snow White".

The kind parishioners who opened their gardens, together with the landowners who allowed us to have car parks, were once again vital to success. The numerous friends who made cakes, served refreshments, staffed gates, parked cars, donated signs or supervised visitors in the church and up the tower were all part of a great team. Thank you everyone - especially to all exhibitors, who produced such a range of interesting scarecrows.

If the event is repeated in the future, more volunteers will be needed, as the length of shift for many of the helpers was too long. Some were on duty both days and did not see the scarecrows! However, when the new equipment appears in the recreation ground, so many folk will be able to feel that they contributed most effectively to the project - by supporting the weekend in so many ways.

It was a fun time, highly appreciated by people of all ages - a great family outing and apparently good value for money!

JMS, PG, BC.

Sonning Glebe W.I.

Recent and Future Meetings

During the last few months some of our members have walked at Dinton Pastures, to the Bluebell Woods near Binfield Heath and along the river from Remenham to Hambledon Lock, after the walks we have found our way to a local pub for a good lunch and a chat. Some members have enjoyed Scrabble evenings and others attended Knit and Natters where our members have either brought along their own knitting or are knitting squares to make a blanket, one blanket nearly finished. Some of our members attended the WI Spring Council Meeting at the Hexagon where the speakers were Jim Wight - James Herriot's son and a gentleman from Yorkshire Tea, a very entertaining meeting.

Our monthly meeting in April was open to everyone, our speaker brought along some of his birds - a Peregrine Falcon and some owls; it was a well-attended meeting and an interesting talk. Our meeting in May was our resolutions meeting but we also had time to plan an entry for the Newbury Show Committee's decorate a bra competition.

Our meetings for the rest of the year are; July; Garden Meeting, August; Recycling, September; Military Talk, October; Birthday Meeting, November; Prison Work and December; Christmas Party. We meet in Pearson Hall on the 3rd Monday of the Month and always welcome new members.

Diane Reeves

Scarecrow Weekend

What a hectic two days the W.I. spent organising the refreshments in the Pearson Hall for the Scarecrow Trail. We made sandwiches, sliced cakes and poured endless cups of tea - using 400 tea bags! But, the end result was worth all the hard work, as the refreshments made £1,565.00 for the village playground. Many thanks to all those who helped in any way; both members and non-members. The W.I. was proud to have been associated with the event.

Barbara Carr

Royal British Legion - Sonning Branch (BR 1817)

Roll of Honour

So far only two nominations for the proposed Book of Honour have been identified. Please, even if the relatives have moved out of the area, if you know where they are, or know of someone who might be able to help, do let me know and I will do the rest.

Already, it looks like an interesting and exciting project and it would be a pity to let it drop down a black hole. So, *anything* you might have that would be useful in tracing relatives or descendants of the thirty-two names on the memorial plaques in St Andrew's will be of immense help. Please do contact Colin Pierce (969 3778) or me (969 6693).

Gordon Barnett

The Monday Club

Our speaker was Mel Rees, who gave a very entertaining talk on observations from life, or, as he called them, humour from the ordinary. A keen train spotter in his early days, he told us how his chat-up lines to the girls (with details of steam engines) weren't very successful. His speaking technique has greatly improved since then. We were all very pleased to be able to congratulate our Nora Hollingsbee on her forthcoming birthday this month (June). A veritable stripling of nearly one hundred and one, her sense of humour is infective.

R C A

Sonning Art Group

What a success! Many congratulations to the Scarecrow Trail organizers for another good event. The constant flow of happy, smiling people visiting the art exhibition was a joy to watch and something to remember. 'Rolf' carried on painting throughout, not the least distracted by the attention he was receiving! However two days of 'Tie Your Kangaroo Down Sport' was more than enough for the stewards on duty! We hear that the real Rolf, having seen a photograph of himself at work, was greatly amused and pleased at being chosen as the subject for one of Sonning's scarecrows.

There was great interest in all the pictures on display with many pleasing comments on the quality and variety of the work. For a number of people interest and appreciation were transformed into desire to the extent that one third of all the paintings available for sale were sold. The Groups best result from any exhibition and a wonderful confidence booster for those first time members that had not previously put their work forward for sale.

George Webster

Sonning CE Primary School

As we race towards the end of yet another academic year I cannot believe that it has been 7 years since I first came to Sonning. In fact the Year 6 pupils, who will be moving on to their various secondary schools next term, were the group that started in the reception class at the same time, so this makes the end of their learning journey with us even more special. This year we are saying goodbye to 23 children and we wish them well as they move onto the next stage of their education. A special Leavers' Service is taking place for them in the last week of term in the church; on this occasion Canon Clarke also presents each one with a Bible on behalf of the PCC and we are very grateful for this special gift to our children.

The remaining weeks are full of so many activities it is sometimes difficult to keep up but that is the wonderful thing about school life and young people - you never stand still! We all very much enjoyed being part of the village Scarecrow Trail and a special thanks goes to our PTA who co-ordinated our entry - Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. Recently there has also been a very successful book fair (we are keen to have some new books in our classrooms and library) and a visit by the Life Education Caravan where children had the opportunity to learn how to make healthy choices in their lives. Our hall was transformed into an art gallery for one day when parents were invited to purchase their child's framed and mounted pictures; proceeds from this will go towards art resources.

Still to come is our Fitness Week at the beginning of July, various language events at The Piggot Secondary School for our older pupils, a special Science day on the theme of 'Bubbles', sports day - when for the first time

we will be holding separate Infant and Junior events due to the growing size of our school - and the Year 6 production, a musical version of Shakespeare's 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' on July 10th.

We will return after the summer break refreshed and ready to face the challenges and activities of a new academic year.

Lesley Green

Little Fishes Baby and Toddler Group

Little Fishes will meet on Tuesday 4th July this month. Please join us for toys, craft activities, songs and stories from 10am to 11.30am in the St Sarik Room next to St Andrew's Church. All pre-school aged children and their parents/carers are welcome.

Sarah Turner

Conservative Association - Sonning Branch

Summer Drinks Party

The Summer Drinks Party will be held on Saturday, 15th July, at 6.30 p.m. at Sonningdene, Pearson Road. Tickets are £9 and can be obtained from me (944 2877) or any member of the committee. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mary Jones

Sonning & Sonning Eye Society

The Sonning and Sonning Eye Society held a very successful Summer Luncheon in the beautiful garden of The Eyot House in Sonning Eye and thankfully the weather was on our side!

The S&SES will be in attendance at the Village show on Saturday 9th September. This is the ideal opportunity for you to come along to find out more about the aims and activities of the society.

If you:

- Are interested in the natural environment where you live and want to see it protected.
- Are concerned about the effects of traffic through the two villages and would like to influence decision-making about solutions.
- Care about the many excellent buildings in both villages and want to see them preserved.

- Would like to see high standards of planning and architecture in the two villages.
- Would be interested in finding out more about the geography, history, natural history and architecture of both Sonning and Sonning Eye.

Then the S&SES could be for you and we would welcome the chance to meet you at the show.

As part of the Heritage Open Days weekend organised by **The Civic Trust** and **English Heritage**, the Sonning & Sonning Eye Society is pleased to announce its participation over the weekend of the 8th to 10th September, with a series of walks that will look at the wonderful architecture of our historic village. Further details of these walks will be published in the next issue.

The S&SES has now joined the Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE). This is in addition to our membership of the Civic Trust and the Berkshire Local History Association.

Mark Green

Sonning Floral Arrangement Society

Scarecrow Weekend

As Chairman of Sonning Floral Arrangement Society I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make a success of the SFAS display in the Church over the Scarecrow weekend: by making scarecrows, doing flower arrangements, providing materials or just giving encouragement. I have had nothing but compliments about the scarecrows and the flower displays.

There were so many people involved I am unable to list them all but I would like to particularly thank all the people who are not members of the SFAS but who helped to make our display so wonderful. I wish to thank Fay Ayling who, despite not being a member of the SFAS, helped us in many different ways. I wish to thank all the members of the SFAS who contributed. In particular I would like to thank Barbara McGregor who gave so much of her time and energy. It took both Barbara and myself weeks of preparations and discussions deciding on flower designs and where scarecrows should be displayed. I am indebted to her for her huge support. I would also like to say thank you to Canon Chris Clarke for allowing us to use the Church for the scarecrows. To have the Church ringing with the laughter of children is what God's house is all about.

Finally I would like to congratulate the Scarecrow Committee on organising a very successful weekend.

Catherine Penny

Future Events

13th July: Meeting. Demonstrator will be Anne Winkworth on "That's Style".
10th August: Summer lunch, Deanna Lee's, Binfield Heath. Take your own chair.

Jane Gascoine



Part -Time Day Centre Assistant Wanted

Would you like to join our dedicated caring team at Twyford & District Age Concern Day Centre? We are currently looking for a *Part -Time Day Centre Assistant* for 15¼ hours a week, working 3 days a week Monday, Tuesday and Friday (applicants should be drivers).

We are looking for a person with a genuine love of working with older people, able to be flexible and with a good sense of humour. I would love to hear from you if you think you would be interested.

Please call me on 0118 934 4040. Thank you.

Lyn Buddell

Sonning Village Show - Saturday, 9th September

The programme for this year's Show is currently with the printers and hopefully will be delivered to all homes in Sonning from mid July.

Please make a note of the date and take part in this enjoyable village event, by entering some of the Produce Show Classes and attending the afternoon fête. We look forward to seeing you there.

Heather Hine

Eye & Dunsden Parish Council

This past year has been yet another busy one for Eye & Dunsden Parish Council. We were actively involved in the highly successful STOP! Campaign, which succeeded in removing the parish from the South East England Regional Assembly's Western Corridor Sub-Region. This small victory will hopefully help defend the parish from development pressures.

An application for the excavation for gravel from land between Playhatch and the Flowing Spring Pub was vigorously resisted by the parish council but subsequently approved by Oxfordshire County Council. Work is expected to begin this year and to last for no more than three years, including a covered conveyor belt across the B481 and a new processing plant. It is hoped that the Council had some influence in mitigating the effects of the application. One benefit should be a new public footpath between Sonning Eye and Playhatch. An application has since been made to designate land east of Spring Lane for gravel excavation, with a possible yield of 2m tonnes of aggregate material. We continued to be represented on the Thames Councils' Crossing Group, which has acted as a pressure group on the local authorities charged with easing cross-river congestion in the Reading area. However the council voted this year not to promote a new bridge in future, which is now felt likely to bring too many development pressures. Measures to make the route over Sonning Bridge less attractive will however, be promoted.

Our two allotment sites in Sonning Eye and Playhatch have continued to flourish and we have continued to look after Dunsden Green and Furleigh Bank open spaces. Budgetary constraints at OCC mean that no funding is available to deter travellers from the verge of the A4155, where unsightly encampments continue to be a problem.

Dunsden Village Hall has continued with strong bookings and a programme of entertainments. After considerable debate a decision was taken to swap redundant land owned by the parish council behind the village hall for a portion of the field to the north of the village green. This raised the exciting possibility of the creation of a community orchard on the newly acquired land. For this to become a reality it will be necessary to involve interested members of the local community. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone interested in getting involved. A payment for the land at the Village Hall is also expected which it is hoped may be used to help improve parking facilities there. Thanks to our County Councillor Carol Viney and to our District Councillors Nigel Spencer-Jones and Malcolm Leonard for all the hard work they have put in on our behalf during the year. Especial thanks also to our splendid and long-suffering clerk. As always we continue to encourage the public to attend our meetings, on the third Thursday of the month. Our Clerk is Beverly Dobson at 26 Green Lane, Sonning Common, Reading RG4 9NA. Telephone: 0118 9723 266, Email beverly.dobson@virgin.net

David Woodward

Sonning Bridge Watch

So far, I have only five names on the list and that is insufficient to contemplate a *Bridge Watch*. Please, do volunteer and help reduce the number of illegal vehicles crossing our bridges.

If you are willing to join in and help, please call me on 0118 969 6693.

Gordon Barnett

Sonning Baby & Toddler Group

We are a small, informal and friendly 'drop-in' group for carers (parents, child minders, nannies, grandparents etc) with babies and toddlers from birth upwards. The group is run by volunteers and meets every Friday at the Pearson Hall, Sonning between 9.30 - 11.30am. The charge is £1.50 per session for the first child and 50p for each subsequent child (6 months +) but the 1st visit is free.

There is a full range of equipment for all ages, which is regularly reviewed and updated. During the session we try to offer some structure for the children with an art activity, refreshments for children and adults, story and song time. Occasionally we have fun; raising money for charity and at Christmas we have a Christmas party. Also, we don't forget the adults with a "fun night out" several times a year!

So why not come and give us a try. We run all year round including school holidays.

For more information please contact:
Chris Szmidt - Chairperson on 0118 954 0165
Fiona Fisher - Secretary on 0118 969 3435
Or email Sonning.Toddlers@ntlworld.com

Karen Livingstone

Well, Stone the Crows!

A lovely sequel to the scarecrow weekend is a story about a parrot.

An African grey parrot, frightened by an umbrella, escaped from its owner whilst outside *The Bull* and flew off with its lead still attached. After much anguish and frantic calling, it was spotted in a tall tree. The tree was far too tall and dangerous to climb and the bird was caught by its lead in the branches. A tree surgeon was called in, who managed to free the parrot by sawing off the branch on which it was caught. Ironically, the ungrateful bird bit him on the way down. However, the forgiving tree surgeon refused to charge the owner, as he actually liked grey parrots and had one himself.

And, if you think that's a coincidence, do you wonder why the parrot chose that particular tree to fly to? Could it be because that was the garden

where *The Pirates of the Caribbean* were? How many *Pieces of Eight* would you have wagered on that happening?

Jane Gascoine

Guiding in Sonning

 Sonning Guides are a wonderful group of girls, aged between 10 and 14, who like getting together each week to make things, have fun out of doors, do cooking and generally have a good time.

Being involved in Guiding is an excellent way of meeting people in your area.

 Unfortunately, if we cannot find someone to come and help at Guides we may have to close the Guide unit.

 Would you be interested in helping? Even if you can't commit to a weekly meeting I would like to hear from you.

 If you would like to know more please phone me:
Diane Reeves 0118 969 2987, Loddon District Commissioner

Sonning Out of School Club

On 20th June, as part of National Insect Week, 24 children from Sonning Out of school Club went pond dipping at Ali's pond. Ali Driver was there to share his expertise and we all had a great time. The children succeeded in catching lots of newts, frogs, tadpoles, water boatmen, pond snails, whirligig beetles and other mini beasts which were all (or almost all) returned safely to the pond. The highlight of the afternoon was a very large grass snake caught by Ali and released to swim across the pond! It's surprising just how many animals live in and around the pond.

The Sonning Out of School Club provides childcare and activities for children before and after school and we are currently looking for additional staff. So if you are free from 7:45 until 9am or from 3:15-6pm and interested in working for us please contact me (tel. 9697032) for further details.

Julie Rayfield

Sonning Brownies

Last term we had our annual 'Greet-a-Granny' evening, which was slightly different this year as it was 'Greet-a-Grandparent' with 2 Grandpas joining us. The grannies, grandpas and ladies from the village were entertained and fed and then they helped their Brownie with a craft. This year they made Easter cards. The Brownies then presented their guests with small cakes decorated with sugar paste flowers that the girls had made with Sue Bell's cake decorating group. The girls managed to make beautiful decorations due to excellent tuition and lots of encouragement.

We started this term by having a weekend pack holiday at Thirtover House in Cold Ash. 18 girls stayed for 2 nights and the 6 younger girls joined us for the Saturday. Our theme was 'Up, Up and Away!' and the girls enjoyed kite flying, grass sledging, making many things including hot air balloons, natural mobiles, flying insects, bags, wind chimes etc as well as enjoying parachute games, trails and keep fit. Otter (Polly) was home from university so she was able to join us and Bluebird (Fiona) asked one of her school friends, Blackbird (Annette) to join us as a young leader for the weekend. Debbie Knox (Kookaburra for the weekend) kept us all fed and watered and Butterfly (Emma) joined us on the Saturday. It's very hard work but I think I can safely say we all had a GREAT weekend.

We had our annual Macmillan mile evening and just managed to walk, skip, run or cartwheel around St George's field twice before the weather worsened. The Brownies entered a scarecrow for the Scarecrow Trail. We had a Brownie playing pooh sticks with Winnie-the-Pooh and Tigger in a little stream at the bottom of a garden, topical as 'Winnie' had just turned 80. We came second in the Brownie District sports and must mention Anna who being our only 9 to 10 year old ran every race! All the girls that came did more than their fair share but they all seemed to enjoy themselves.

We had another lovely meeting on the River Thames, bellboating. A bell boat is a cross between a canoe and a catamaran and is very stable. We could be heard by many singing as we paddled down the river. At the end the girls jumped into the Thames (obviously very safely) despite some not having got a change of clothes or a towel.

One of our helpers, Piglet, left recently to have a baby and baby Jack arrived safely. Much love to Clare and Jon from everyone at Sonning Brownies! (And hurry back Clare; we miss you!)

Panda (Helen Jukes)

Local Organisations

St Andrew's: Creche	Alice Wilkinson	932 0264
St Andrew's: Little Fishes	Mrs Sarah Turner	944 8154
St Andrew's: Sunday School	Jan Hammond	926 2365
St Andrew's: Tower Captain:	Mrs P. Elliston	969 5967
The Friends of St Andrew's	Wendy Williams	969 6609
St Patrick's: Sunday School	Catherine Balchin	934 2840
1st Charvil Rainbows	Guider: Brenda Cowdery	934 5698
Charvil Art Club	Secretary: Mr W.G. Crane	934 5791
Charvil Branch Conservatives	Mrs E. Hobbs	934 0528
Charvil Brownies	White Owl: Rozanne White	901 7818
Charvil Guides	Naomi Simpson	934 1392
Charvil Gym Club	Sally Jones	966 5480
Charvil Caterpillar Club	Sarah Thompson	901 7608
Charvil Parish Council	Clerk: Mr I. Cohen	901 7693
Charvil Pre-School Playgroup	Secretary: Helen Myers	934 2144
Charvil Senior Residents Club	Miss C. Edwards	969 2114
Charvil Women's Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Charvil Youth Club	Rachel Sale	932 0853
Sonning & Charvil Baby-sitting Circle	Mrs Vanessa Jones <i>E-mail</i> vanessalouisejones@hotmail.com	934 1185
Sonning & District Chernobyl Children's Lifeline Link Group	Maria Gee maria.gee@ntlworld.com	962 7721
Sonning Art Group	Chairman: Mr G.B. Webster	944 0699
Sonning Book Club	Mrs Anne Webster	944 0699
Sonning Branch, British Legion	Chairman: Gordon Barnett	969 6693
Sonning Brownies	Leader: Miss D. Reeves	969 2987
Sonning C of E Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs L. Green	969 3399
Sonning Conservatives	Secretary: Mary Jones	944 2877
Sonning Cricket Club	Membership: Ali Driver	969 2698
Sonning Flower Club	Secretary: Ms S. Robinson	969 0748
Sonning Glebe Art Club	Julian Toms	969 0100
Sonning Glebe WI (eve mtgs)	Mrs D. Mouldsley	961 8829
Sonning Guides	Leader: Sue Jones	969 6628
Sonning Lawn Tennis Club	Membership info: Ali Campbell	969 2646
Sonning Liberal Democrats	John Edmonds	969 0017
Sonning Neighbourhood Watch	Sec: Sue Bell	969 6924
Sonning Parish Council	Clerk, Mrs L. Bates	969 7753
Sonning Rainbow Guides	Leader: Mrs Debbie Knox	969 4470
Sonning RNLI	Chairman: David Bates	969 7753

Sonning School PTA	Chairman: Mr Ian Clark	375 9119
1st Sonning Scouts Group	GS Leader: Wendy Cherry	926 2363
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Scout Leader: Mike Watts	962 8388
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Cub Scout Leader:	
1st Sonning Scouts Group	Beaver Scout Ldr: Trefor Fisher	969 3279
Sonning Table Tennis Club	Alan Tinson	969 0782
Sonning Twinning Association	David Bates	969 7753
Sonning Toddler Group	Elizabeth Tonge	969 2080
Sonning Village Players	Secretary: Mr S. Atkins	969 1134
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	Secretary: Mrs P. Feathers	934 3193
Sonning Village Show	Secretary: Mrs Heather Hine	969 8653
Sonning Working Men's Club	Secretary: Bob Hulley	969 9431
Friends of Ali's Pond	Alastair Driver	969 2698
Masquerade Drama & Dance Group for Young People	Clare Hatfield	07973 918225
Monday Club	Leader: Ken Trimmings	969 1072
Pearson Hall	Caretaker & Bookings: Mrs Jenny Adams	969 7692
Pearson Hall Mgmt Committee	Secretary: Mr Colin McEwen	934 0300
Badminton Club	Mrs P. Pardoe	934 5643
Fitness Training	Chris Banks	934 0832
Longmead Bridge Club	Chairman: Tony Cowling	969 5181
Rotary Club of Loddon Vale	Secretary: Norman Mouldsley	961 8829
Serinette Ladies Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589
Short Mat Bowling Club	Mrs S. Newman	934 0589
Tuesday Club	Mrs Marjorie Bennet	934 5059
Vivace Girls Choir	Suzanne Newman	934 0589

Ali's Pond	E-mail: ali@sonningdrivers.plus.com www.sonning.net/alispond.html
Sonning & Charvil services	www.sonningparish.org.uk/docs.htm
Sonning Working Men's Club	www.btinternet.com/~sonning_club/news.html
Sonning-on-Thames	archive.museophile.sbu.ac.uk/sonning www.sonning.net
Sonning & Sonning Eye Society	www.sonning.org.uk
Sonning Art Group	www.sonningartgroup.org.uk
Sonning School	www.sonning.wokingham.sch.uk